LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.(Currently Amended) A method of producing bearing shells in which blanks are made from a strip material, then these blanks are shaped into a bearing shell and finally these bearing shells are provided with an overlay, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

at least one stamped marking is introduced into the inner surface of the blank or the bearing shell within a strip-shaped area below the parting face prior to application of the overlay, wherein the depth and width of the stamped marking are sufficiently ~~have to be~~ large ~~enough~~ for the contour of the stamped marking to be retained after application of the overlay.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced prior to machining of the inner surface.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein a machining step is used in forming the bearing shell and where ~~characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced in combination with[[a]] the machining step ~~which has to be performed anyway~~.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the at lease one stamped marking is introduced during a punching out operation of the blank.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced during shaping.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 5, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced into a ~~subsequently to be produced~~ relief area of the bearing shell.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final ~~the~~ depth T' of [[is]] ≥ 0.1 mm.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced with [[a]] an initial depth T, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final ~~the~~ depth T' that is > than twice ~~the~~ a thickness D of the overlay.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that a~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a round or n-gonal contour, where n is ≥ 3.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is > twice the thickness of the overlay.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced with a width B, such that after an internal machining operation the marking has a final width B' that is ≥ 0.1 mm.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced in the middle of the strip-shaped area.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein ~~any one of claims 1 to 12, characterized in that~~ the at least one stamped marking is introduced at the edge of the strip-shaped area.

14. (Currently Amended) A bearing shell having at least one stamped marking [[(7)]] in ~~its~~ an inner surface within a strip-shaped area of the bearing shell ~~(3, 8)~~ below a ~~the~~ parting face of the bearing [[(2)]].